

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 072843

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072843

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SCUL, PFOR

SUBJECT: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: A) SANTIAGO 1781; B) SANTIAGO 1801

1. COUNTRY DIRECTOR HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FATHERS LEWERS AND WARNER SINCE LATTER'S RETURN FROM RECENT TRIP TO SANTIAGO. LAST CONVERSATION WAS WITH WARNER ON APRIL 9. BOTH CONFIRMED THAT CONGREGATION HAS ACCEPTED GOC POSITION THAT ALL FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OF SCHOOL INTERVENTION BE CONDUCTED IN SANTIAGO DIRECTLY WITH EDUCATION MINISTER. ACCORDING TO WARNER, ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GALLAGHER GAVE POWER OF ATTORNEY BEFORE LEAVING SANTIAGO TO FATHER FERMIN DONOSO AND LIC. IGNACIO WALKER. WARNER INDICATED DONOSO AND WALKER WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH CARDINAL SILVA AND ALSO UTILIZE PAPAL NUNCIO'S GOOD OFFICES IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOC.

2. WARNER REFERRED TO CONVERSATIONS REPORTED REFTEL A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 072843

WITH VERDUGO AND EDUCATION UNDER SECRETARY RETAMAL AND

QUOTED BOTH AS SAYING THAT "CASE IS CLOSED" AND ONLY REMAINING ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION WAS COMPENSATION FOR INTERVENED PROPERTY. WARNER, OF COURSE, HOPES EDUCATION MINISTER WILL DECIDE TO HOLD FURTHER TALKS AND SEEMS TO THINK VERDUGO AND RETAMAL MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SOFTEN HIM UP FIRST.

3. REGARDING LIKELY EXPULSION OF FATHER PLASKER, WARNER SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR CONGREGATION TO CONTINUE ITS PUBLIC SILENCE IN THAT EVENT; HE ADDED THAT IF EXPROPRIATION IS CARRIED OUT WITH OR WITHOUT PLASKER EXPULSION, CONGREGATION WOULD NOT HESITATE TO FULLY AIR ITS VIEWS IN THE U.S.

4. WARNER CLEARLY INDICATED CONGREGATION HOPED EMBASSY WOULD AGAIN MAKE KNOWN ITS CONCERN ABOUT PLASKER EXPULSION ORDER TO CHILEAN AUTHORITIES. COUNTRY DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT BOTH DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY HAD DONE SO ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO CHILEAN EMBASSY HERE AND TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN SANTIAGO, BUT WE WOULD, OF COURSE, SEEK EVERY

APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE OUR CONCERN.

5. DEPARTMENT'S READING IS THAT CONGREGATION IS NOT DISPOSED TO VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAW ANYONE FROM CHILE, LEAST OF ALL PLASKER WHO IS LEADING CANDIDATE TO BECOME CONGREGATION'S SUPERIOR GENERAL IN JULY. HIS VOLUNTARY REMOVAL COULD ONLY MAKE SENSE TO CONGREGATION IF THERE WERE SOME REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT EDUCATION MINISTER IS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL TALKS. AS YET WE SEE NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH ASSURANCE. WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY CHANCE PLASKER MIGHT LEAVE CHILE ON HIS OWN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WARNER REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. THIS ATTITUDE REFLECTS VIEWS EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY AND REPORTED IN PARA 3, REFTEL B.

6. EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO OFFER WHATEVER ASSISTANCE CAN APPROPRIATELY BE EXTENDED TO HOLY CROSS REPRESENTATIVES IN SANTIAGO. SINCE FATHER DONOSO HAS CONGREGATION'S POWER OF ATTORNEY, QUESTION OF MORE SPECIFIC ROLE CARDINAL MIGHT PLAY COULD BE PUT TO HIM FOR POSSIBLE REPLY WITH EDUCATION MINISTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 072843

7. ACTION REQUESTED: RE PLASKER EXPULSION ORDER, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING ASAP WHETHER HE HAS BEEN INFORMED OF SPECIFIC CHARGES ON WHICH ORDER IS BASED AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFUTE THEM. IF ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION ON EXPULSION HAS BEEN MADE, IS THERE ANY PROCEDURE AVAILABLE TO HIM FOR APPEALING CHARGES OR EXPULSION ORDER TO HIGHER ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OR

COURTS? KISSINGER

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